United Nations E/CN.3/2005/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 December 2004

Original: English

Statistical Commission
Thirty-sixth session
1-4 March 2005
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session, shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur (the Bureau).

The Bureau serves for two years, as far as possible. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session. The Bureau is elected based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution: a member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented in the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items in the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its thirty-fifth session (New York, 2-5 March 2004).[1] Some changes have been made, in consultation with the officers of the Commission. The proposed draft organization of work is before the Commission. The Commission is invited to adopt the agenda and organization of work for the session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2005/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2005/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session (E/CN.3/2005/CRP.1)

3. Follow-up to policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council: working methods of the Statistical Commission

The Commission will have before it the report of the Bureau of the Commission reporting on its review of the working methods of the Statistical Commission. The report covers the areas of agenda content and structure, time management, documentation, preparation of session report, participation in the session, politicization, and relation with the Economic and Social Council and other functional commissions. The report presents the decisions taken by the Bureau in order to improve the working methods. The Commission is invited to comment on the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission on the review of working methods (E/CN.3/2005/2)

4. Economic statistics

(a) Programme review: energy statistics

The Statistical Commission will have before it the report of Statistics Norway, which overviews the new needs for energy statistics and how they are satisfied by the conceptual and practical work undertaken by international, regional and specialized organizations. The Commission is invited to express its views on the findings, conclusions and recommendations for future work in this area.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Programme Reviewer (Statistics Norway) on energy statistics (E/CN.3/2005/3)

(b) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. The report includes a progress report on work completed in the updating of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA).[2] It covers the results of meetings of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts and other expert groups, summarizes the recommendations reached on a number of issues among the 44 issues selected for updating, and provides information on the global consultation mechanism, the governance structure, the funding situation and other aspects of the SNA updating project to be completed by 2008. The report summarizes the findings of a survey conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division, at the request of the Commission at its thirty-fifth session, to reveal and analyse the factors impeding the implementation of the 1993 SNA in developing countries. The Commission is invited to express its views on the status of the SNA updating, comment on the progress in understanding the factors impeding the implementation of the 1993 SNA and discuss possible solutions to improve the level, scope and pace of the 1993 SNA implementation in developing countries.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2005/4)

(c) Service statistics

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) containing information on work undertaken internationally and recent developments in the field of service statistics. The Commission is invited to review progress and to comment on future directions of the work in service statistics.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on service statistics (E/CN.3/2005/5)

(d) Statistics of international trade in services

The Commission will have before it the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services on its recent meetings and proposed future work programme. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (E/CN.3/2005/6)

(e) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the World Bank on recent developments and progress in the global implementation of the International Comparison Programme. In addition to discussing the status of implementation of the Programme, the report presents future plans for the completion of the current phase and the continuation of the worldwide purchasing power parity comparisons. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2005/7)

(f) Price Statistics

The Commission will consider developments in the field of price statistics based on two reports: one by the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes and another one by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the reports presented under this item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes (E/CN.3/2005/8)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2005/9)

(g) Informal sector statistics

The Commission will have before it a report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics providing an update on its most recent meeting, the activities undertaken and planned outputs. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2005/10)

5. Demographic and social statistics

(a) Population and housing censuses

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General summarizing activities completed in response to the actions taken by the Commission at its thirty-fifth session, including a draft resolution requesting the Secretary-General to proceed with the development of a 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme recommending that States Members of the United Nations undertake to carry out population and housing censuses during the period 2005-2014; the formation of an international expert group to focus on critical issues related to planning the next round of population and housing censuses (2005-2014), and the establishment of draft terms of reference, outlining the role of the expert group, its process and the setting of priorities of work and outputs in relation to the 2010 World Population and Housing Census programme.

The report also presents conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations Symposium on Population and Housing Censuses (New York, 13 and 14 September 2004) and the Expert Group Meeting to Review Critical Issues Relevant to the Planning of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (New York, 15-17 September 2004). The Commission is invited to express its views on the draft resolution, and on the terms of reference of the Expert Group, and to comment on the direction of the Expert Group's future work.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2005/11)

(b) Health statistics

The Commission will have before it a report of the World Health Organization (WHO) that addresses the recommendations made by the Commission at its thirty-fifth session and describes progress made by the Organization along those lines,

including regarding the formation of an intersecretariat working group on health statistics. The Commission is invited to comment on the progress made thus far by WHO with regard to the Commission's recommendations.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics (E/CN.3/2005/12)

(c) Poverty statistics

The Commission will have before it an update on the progress made by the United Nations Statistics Division in preparing a handbook on poverty measurement. The report describes how four regional workshops held in 2004 provided inputs into the drafting process and helped to determine the focus of the publication. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on poverty statistics (E/CN.3/2005/13)

(d) Disability statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. The report summarizes the work accomplished by the Washington Group and outlines future activities. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2005/14)

6. Natural resources and environment statistics

(a) Environmental accounting

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on environmental-economic accounting. The report includes a proposal for the creation of a technical United Nations committee on environmental accounting. The document outlines the responsibilities of the committee. The Commission is invited to endorse the formation of this technical committee.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on environmental-economic accounting (E/CN.3/2005/15)

(b) Environment statistics

The Statistical Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics. The report informs the Commission about the activities carried out in 2004 and plans for 2005-2006. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2005/16)

7. Activities not classified by field

(a) Statistical capacity-building

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General containing a brief description of the current technical cooperation programmes of the United Nations Statistics Division and their funding mechanisms. Furthermore, the report describes new strategic priorities. The Commission is invited to comment on the technical cooperation programme of the Statistics Division.

The Commission will also have before it a report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21) outlining how the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) provides a country with a strategy for strengthening statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system. The Strategy is a comprehensive and unified framework for continuous assessment of evolving user needs and priorities for statistics and for building the capacity needed to meet these needs in a more coordinated, synergistic and efficient manner. The Commission is invited to comment on the NSDS approach.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2005/17)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21) (E/CN.3/2005/18)

(b) International economic and social classifications

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications providing information on recent developments, including the status of revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, the Central Product Classification, the Standard International Trade Classification and the International Standard Classification of Occupations. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2005/19)

(c) Indicators for follow-up to United Nations conferences

This report to the Commission describes the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators in 2004-2005 in the following areas: compilation and analysis of the indicators, review of methodologies related to the agreed indicators, coordination of data collection at the global level and coordination and support to countries that are establishing country-led programmes of data collection, analysis and reporting for Millennium Development Goals

indicators. It also describes the 2004-2005 international work plan for Millennium Development Goals indicators, the planned outputs in relation to the series of international events planned in 2005 leading up to the expected follow-up Millennium Summit in September 2005 and the interrelation between international and national work on Millennium Development Goals indicators. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals and for follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields (E/CN.3/2005/20)

(d) Presentation of statistical data and metadata

Following the presentation of an outline for a proposed "Data and metadata reporting and presentation handbook" the Commission in 2004, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) prepared a draft version of the handbook, which the Commission will have before it as a background document. The draft incorporates comments and suggestions received from international organizations and national agencies in both OECD and non-OECD countries over the last 12 months. It should be emphasized that the format of the handbook, among other features, allows for the incorporation of emerging issues on data presentation as they arise in future. OECD is inviting countries to provide final comments to them. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on the presentation of statistical data and metadata (E/CN.3/2005/21)

(e) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

The Commission will have the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange. This year's report focuses on developments in progress, including the September 2004 release of Version 1.0 standards available from www.sdmx.org. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange (E/CN.3/2005/22)

(f) Information and communication technologies statistics

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the members of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development providing an overview of the Partnership and its objectives, and ongoing and planned activities. The report will present the outcome of a global stocktaking exercise on the current and future collection of official information and

communication technologies (ICT) statistics at the national level, as well as key ICT readiness and usage indicators currently discussed by the international community covering areas such as basic infrastructure and access, the ICT sector, household, business and education. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development (E/CN.3/2005/23)

(g) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities held its third and fourth session in New York on 1 March 2004 and from 1 to 3 September 2004, respectively. The Commission will have before it the report on both sessions of the Committee. The Commission may wish to take into account, in its discussions under relevant agenda items, the views expressed by the Committee. This item is for information and the Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities on its third and fourth sessions (E/CN.3/2005/24)

(h) Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning current activities, plans and priorities. It will also have before it the proposed programme of work of the Statistics Division for the biennium 2006-2007. The Commission is invited to approve the changes to the work programme for 2005 and to comment on the proposed programme for 2006-2007.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2006-2007 (E/CN.3/2005/25)

8. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-seventh session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session. In addition, in accordance with the request of the Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2005-2008. The Commission is invited to approve the date, the provisional agenda and the documentation for the thirty-seventh session, as well as the multi-year programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2005/L.2)

Note by the Secretary-General containing the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2005/26)

9. Report of the Commission on its thirty-sixth session

The Commission may wish to adopt the report on its thirty-sixth session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its thirty-sixth session (E/CN.3/2005/L.__)

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 4* (E/2004/24), chap. I, sect. A, draft decision.

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.4.